



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 4, 2006



*Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona*

For Information Contact Public Affairs
WYN HORNBUCKLE
Telephone: (602) 514-7625
Cell: (602) 525-2681

FELON SENTENCED TO 71 MONTHS PRISON FOR ILLEGALLY RETURNING TO THE UNITED STATES

PHOENIX – On November 28, 2006, Luiz Hernandez-Barroso, 41, was sentenced to 71 months in federal prison by U.S. District Judge Neil V. Wake. Hernandez-Barroso pleaded guilty on July 26, 2006, to Re-Entry After Deportation, enhanced by a prior Aggravated Felony conviction.

Hernandez-Barroso was apprehended by Officers of the Phoenix Police Department and Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation during a search warrant regarding illegal drug sales and firearms possession by local gang members. The search warrant was being carried out as part of the District of Arizona's Project Safe Neighborhoods, an illegal firearms enforcement program. When apprehended, Hernandez-Barroso was interviewed by Special Agents from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement who determined he had been deported to Mexico on several previous occasions subsequent to felony convictions in Maricopa County Superior Court. The re-entry after deportation conviction is Hernandez-Barroso's fifth felony conviction, which also includes two separate aggravated DUI's, possession of narcotic drugs, and aggravated assault.

The effectiveness of Project Safe Neighborhoods in Arizona is based on the ability of federal, state, and local agencies to cooperate in a unified offensive that is led by U.S. Attorney Paul K. Charlton. Through ongoing partnerships among federal, state, and local law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies, like the one in this case, the U.S. Attorney is implementing a series of strategies that are contoured to fit the specific gun crime problems throughout Arizona.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the Phoenix Police Department, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The prosecution was handled by Michael Lee, Special Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-05-1293-PHX-NVW
RELEASE NUMBER: 2006-253(Hernandez-Barroso)

###